

The Evaluation of the Foster Care Program and services in Hardin County

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The Department for Community Based Services, Division of Protection and Permanency, has responsibility for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect and for providing services for children and their families where abuse and neglect is found.

- # Research suggests that some children exhibit an increase in behavior problems when placed in foster care. This typically leads to disruption in placement
 - # The likelihood of placement disruptions is two times higher during the first 6 months (17.8%) compared to the second 6 months (9.2%)
(Smith, 2001)
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Discussion

- Placement disruption has been linked to problems with attachment and emotional and behavioral problems in children
 - Attachment problems are an example of this and are manifested when children either accept any adult as a parent, or trusts no one and become anxious, hostile and aggressive
 - Counseling and parenting education may help foster parents have a better understanding of their foster children
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Demographics

- # Male 44%
- # Female 56%
- # Mean Age 13.7
- # Personality Disorder 20%
- # Clinical and Personality 32%

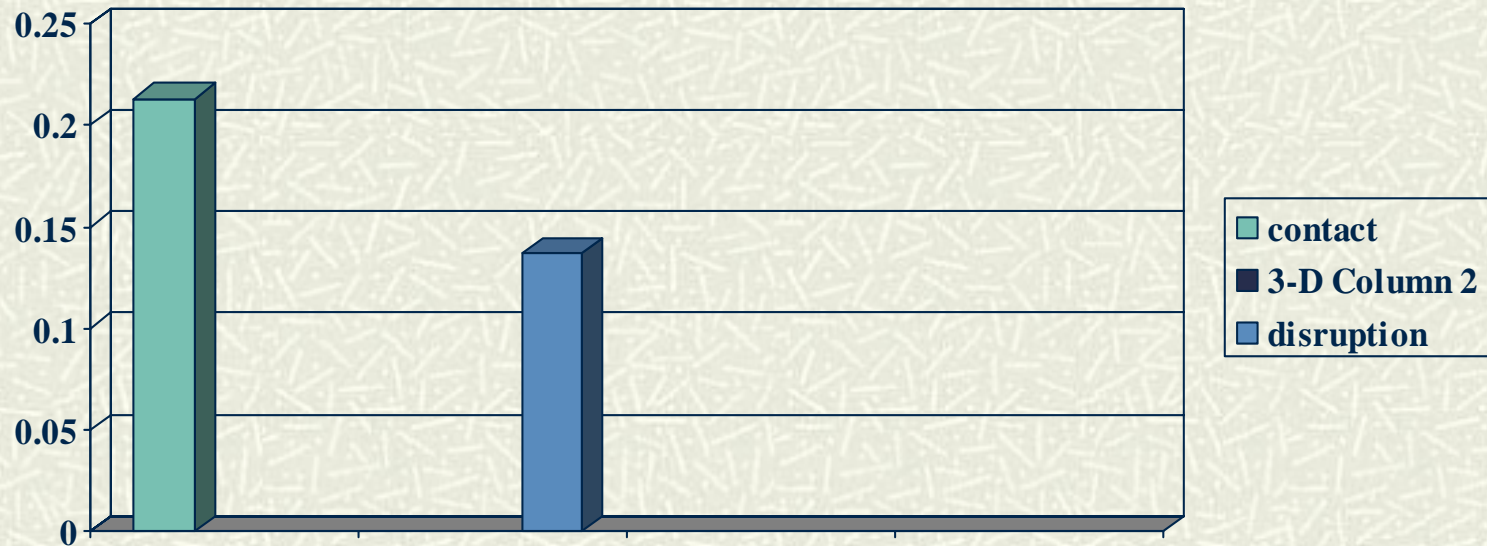
Questions

- # Does clinical diagnosis predict the likelihood of foster care placement disruptions?
 - # Does frequent contact with state social workers lessen the likelihood of foster care disruptions?
 - # Does clinical interventions lessen the likelihood of foster care disruptions?
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Design, Sample, and Management

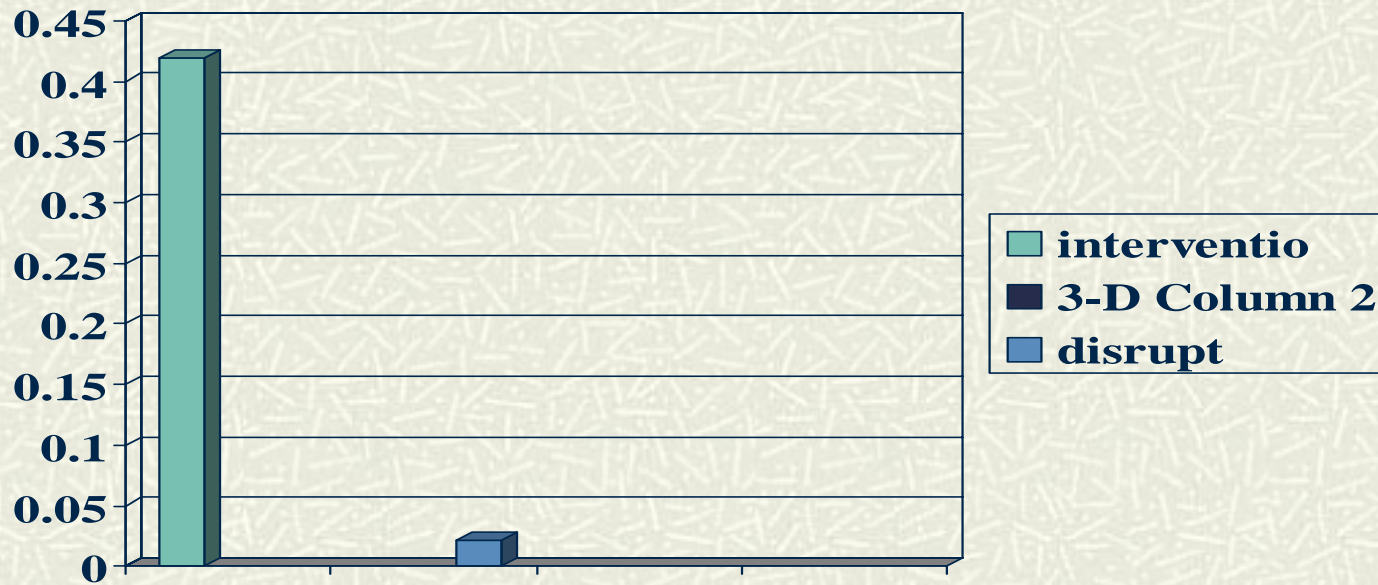
- ✓ Non Experimental
 - ✓ Chart File Review
 - ✓ 50 Charts randomly selected
 - ✓ Aged 10-17
 - ✓ Last four placements
 - ✓ Within 12 months
 - ✓ Diagnosis (clinical, personality, and both)
 - ✓ Total number of clinical interventions (individual, group, and family)
 - ✓ Total number of disruptive behaviors that caused removal
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Does frequent contact with state social workers lessen the likelihood of foster care disruptions?



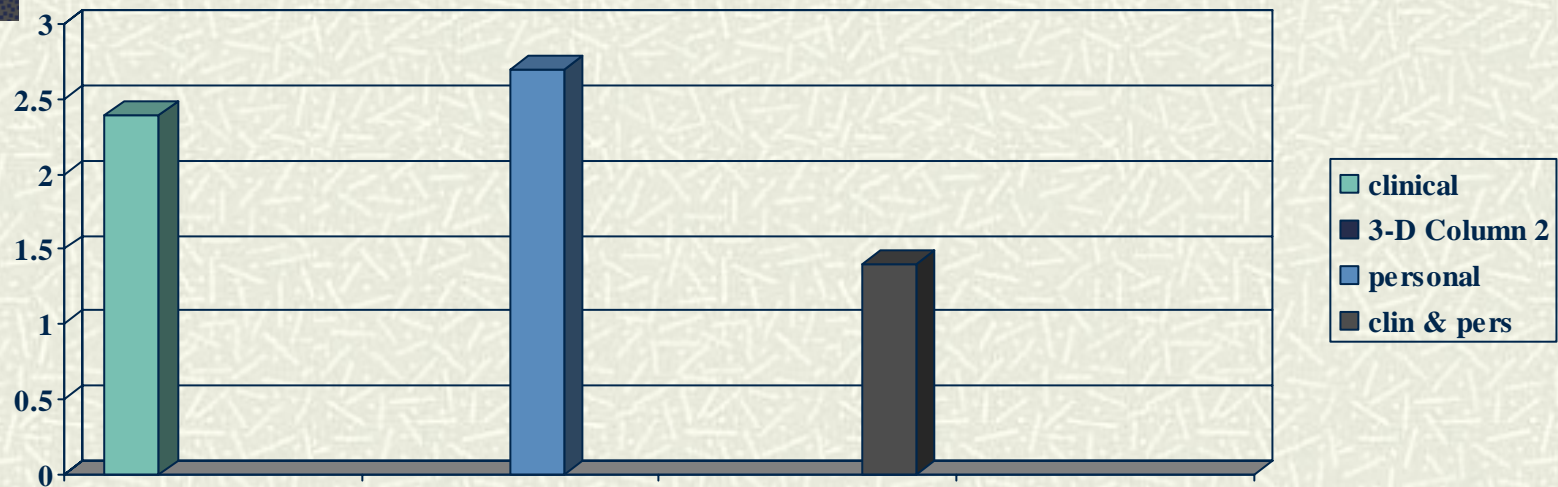
- Pearson Correlation
- $.213 > .137$
- Number of Contacts $>$ Number of Disruptions

Does clinical interventions lessen the likelihood of foster care disruptions?



- Pearson Correlation
- $.419 > .022$
- More interventions
less disruptions

Does Clinical diagnosis predict the likelihood of foster care placement disruptions?



- ANOVA
- $F(2,47) = 5.07, p < .01$
- Bonferroni comparison
- Clinical < Personality
- Personality > Clinical
- Clinical and Personality < Individual Groups

Discussion

When children are removed from their biological families and experience multiple foster care placements, the relationship between foster parents and children becomes damaged due to the lack of stability and trust. “There need to be more therapeutic training, mental health training, and training for out of control behavior”.

Interview Questions

- # How do you feel about programs that specialize in serving behavior problem children?
 - # How do you feel about foster parent training?
 - # What do you think about the screening process for potential foster parents?
 - # What are the complaints that foster parents have about services?
 - # What are some of the rewards and recognitions that foster parents receive?
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Design and Sample

- # Availability sample
 - # A self report semi-structure, ethnographic interview
 - # 10 participants
 - # Written notes
 - # 14 open ended questions
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Frequent disruptions lead foster parents to consider quitting (Rhodes & Buehler, 2001)

- # Lack of agency support
 - # Poor communication with workers
 - # Lack of say in foster children's future
 - # Not enough foster parent mentors
 - # Receive less licensure training
 - # Experienced difficulties with foster children's behavior
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Themes

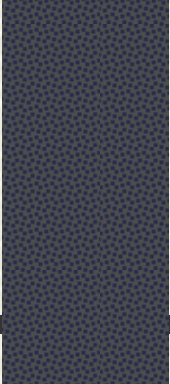
- “ there should be more programs...qualified professional should work with the program and the foster parent”
 - “Additional training with problem behavior children need to be given. Support from staff. R&C worker needs appropriate training. There need to be a front line social worker, an administrative social worker, and part time crisis support group”.
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Implications of Practice

The purpose of this research was to determine if the foster care experience in Hardin County has an impact on children with disruptive behavior.

When children are removed from their biological families and experience multiple placements, the relationship between foster parents and children becomes damaged due to the lack of stability and trust. It takes a strong community, cooperation, commitment and trust to build a safe environment for our growing children.

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- “ Most therapeutic foster homes do not have specialization. I actually haven’t found any. They go to training and pick up that title”
- “ the biggest complaint is the lack of availability. They call and the workers don’t return their call. We have so many cases and a lot of paper work so its hard to get around to everybody”
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